

Washington, DC. -- Today, Congressman-elect Joe Sestak, a former 3-star Admiral, announced he was appointed to the prestigious House Armed Services Committee. According to the office of the House Historian, Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Sestak is also awaiting assignment to a second committee having to do with national security that begins at home, in the health, education and economic promise of our citizens.

“As a former 3-star Admiral who spent 31 years serving our country in our Navy, I am extremely honored that I was asked to serve on the House Armed Services Committee where I intend to work with my colleagues on a new direction for America’s security,” noted Sestak. “Having led the George Washington aircraft carrier battle group in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as having served as the Director for Defense Policy on the National Security Council in the White House, I hope to offer the committee a fresh perspective as we continue to fight the Global War on Terror and face other regional security challenges.”

“We have the opportunity to bring a new direction to our policy, most notably in Iraq, and I look forward to drawing from my experiences as we move forward. This new course begins by redeploying our forces from Iraq by the end of 2007, which will permit us to focus on security challenges everywhere – from North Korea and Iran to Afghanistan and the Middle East – that will make America more secure at home and abroad. It also gives us the flexibility to revitalize and achieve the needed transformation of our military. It keeps America’s eye on the target: terrorism, as well as on a more peaceful and more prosperous world upon which our security depends.

“Additionally, here in the 7th district, we have a special relationship with our nation's defense. We help make the tools that our men and women use to fight the Global War on Terror. Serving on this distinguished committee enables me to support jobs in the district that are necessary for and supportive of greater national security at home and abroad.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years before returning home to run for Congress in the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted combat operations in Afghanistan and precursor operations to war in Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of*

*“Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University.*

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